

THIS WEEK'S OPPORTUNITY

Be a special part!! One of the ways we express love for God and others (and are shaped by Him) is through serving others.

One opportunity to check out is:

Join the Sunday A/V Team!

Looking for a place to serve that supports the church and each other? The AV team might be a perfect fit! **Technical knowledge is NOT required and great training will be provided!** You'll be placed on a rotation schedule and help with our Sunday slide presentations! All who are interested (middle school through adult) and wanting to learn more can contact Jake Jacobs at jakejam@gmail.com or Emily Gabriel at emcega@gmail.com.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

ELECTRONIC GIVING:

Go to www.rfcov.org and click on the *Electronic Tithing* link under Resources.

Weekly Operational need 2018: \$12,794.00

Regular Giving 1.13.19: \$10,035.17

Mortgage balance as of 1.1.19: \$549,068.79

Attendance on 1.13.19: 166 & 175=341

CONTACT US!

www.rfcov.org | 715.425.2640 |

office@rfcov.org |

facebook.com/firstcovenantchurch

Todd Ertsgaard | Lead Pastor:

715.425.6991 or todd@rfcov.org

Brian Majerus | Pastor of Christian

Formation & Family Ministries:

715.426.3097 or brian@rfcov.org

Neil Vance | Youth Director: 715.307.2645

or neil@rfcov.org

Emily Gabriel | Interim Worship Co-Leader:

715-307-3351 or emcega@gmail.com

Jake Jacobs | Interim Worship Co-Leader

715-222-8611 or jakejam@gmail.com

THANK YOU

GREETERS:	(8:15) Dean & Leslie Benoy (10:45) Kayla Barber
WORSHIP TEAM:	Emily Gabriel, Jake Jacobs, John Witt, Aryanna Plummer
SOUND:	Andrew Ertsgaard
VIDEO:	Danielle Ertsgaard
THE HUB:	(8:15) Anne Harris (10:45) Sarah Johnson
NURSERY:	(8:15) Tom, Kathi & Aleah Nelson (10:45) Brett & Beth Neumann, Haylee & Maddisyn
JR. CHURCH:	(10:45) Candace & Hannah Plummer
USHERS:	(8:15) Curt Yelken, Brian Halling (10:45) Rod Hanson, Matt Fitzgerald
PRAYER PARTNERS:	(8:15) Jason & Tina Hull (10:45) Bob & Debbie Gilbertson
COFFEE FELLOWSHIP:	Sue & Brian Halling, Kathy Manche
PRODUCE PICK-UP:	Art Wellnitz

THIS WEEK

TODAY 1/20	<i>Sanctity of Human Life Sunday</i>
8:15 & 10:45a	Worship Services
9:30a	Sunday School Classes
MONDAY 1/21	
6:30p	Financial Peace University
TUESDAY 1/22	
12:00p	Classroom Use: Weight Watchers
WEDNESDAY 1/23	
9:30a	Women's Precepts Study
3:30-5:00p	Confirmation
5:30-6:15p	Fellowship Supper
6:30-8:00p	Awana, Confirmation, Sr. High Youth Group
6:30-7:30p	Prayer Group
THURSDAY 1/24	
8:15p	Iron: Men's Group
FRIDAY 1/25	
9:45a	Women's Bible Study Fellowship
6:30p	Women's Bunco game night
SATURDAY 1/26	
9:00-12:00p	Awana Grand Prix Workshop
SUNDAY 1/27	
8:15a & 10:45a	Worship Services
9:30a	Sunday School Classes for all ages
12:00p	Soup's On! (CHIC fundraiser) Lunch with our Congregational Meeting to follow

FIRST COVENANT CHURCH

"On the Journey: Sharing Christ, Growing Together"

Sunday, January 20, 2019 | 8:15 & 10:45a

OPENING SONG

WELCOME | ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORSHIP SONGS

OFFERING

Children ages 5-7 can go to Rm 306 for Junior Church.

Parents: Please walk your child to the room and pick up after the service

MESSAGE

The Freedom of Grace

Pastor Todd

CLOSING SONG

Prayer Partners for your prayer needs are up front after the services.

HIGH
ENERGY
FAITH

WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP SERVICES!

Guests, we welcome you!

- ❖ **WELCOME PADS** help us to care and connect! Please write your contact info, pass it down the row, and then pass it back. Inside are cards for prayer requests, sign up for the weekly e-news, and more. *If you leave your address, we will send you a Welcome letter with next step ideas to get to know us...and no extra mailings!*
- ❖ **CHILDREN/FAMILIES:** (The Ushers would love to help you too!).
 - *Nurseries (Infants to 4 y.o.).
 - ❖ 8:15- Nursery Room (To the right of the main entrance).
 - ❖ 10:45- Nursery Room.
 - *Infant Room—Hear the service too. On right as you enter Worship Center.
 - *10:45- Junior Church—5-7 y.o. in Rm 303.
 - **Children's Activity Bulletins* (ages 4-7) and *Jr. Sermon Notes* (ages 8-12) are available on the usher's cart AND "*Busy Bags*" for kids @theHub!
- ❖ **OFFERING** is an act of worship and a privilege of our church family. We are just glad you are here to worship with us today!
- ❖ **FREE GIFT:** As an expression of appreciation, pick up a gift and get to know us from the info.



No Regrets Men's Conference

Saturday, February 2

8:00a – 4:00p

To reserve a lunch, register by Monday, Jan. 28th!

Simulcast here! | Cost \$20

Register at rfcov.org.

After that tickets available at the door (no lunch guarantee).

Men, get inspired and encouraged!

CHURCH LIFE

- ❖ **TODAY is Sanctity of Human Life Sunday!** Check out your bulletin insert for opportunities to engage in God's mission on this important Kingdom value.
- ❖ **NEXT SUNDAY Jan. 27:** Hear from one of the missionaries we support as FirstCov'er Brian Aust brings the message from Rev. 1:1-9. Brian serves as an *InterVarsity MN Metro Evangelism Specialist*.
- ❖ **WED. SUPPER** this week: Pulled Pork. Serving 5:15-6p. Sign up on Welcome Pad. Cost: \$3/max \$12.
- ❖ **FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY** continues on Monday nights at 6:30p until March 11. If you'd like more info contact Luke Strehlau at 715.425.8140.
- ❖ **ROMANIA MISSION TRIP OPPORTUNITY** to serve 247 kids in Romania with *Children to Love*. Interested in being a part or learning more? Meet THIS Tues., Jan. 22nd at 6:30pm in the conference room. For questions, see Jim Harsdorf 715.222.7200.
- ❖ **OUR NEXT HYMN SING:** Jan. 27 from 9:45-10:15a in the Worship Center. Join us!
- ❖ **FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN** next packing date is this **Sat. Jan. 26**. Sign up@theHub. Leaving church at 3:30p. Shift is 4:30-6:30p
- ❖ **WOMEN'S BUNCO NIGHT!** A fun night on Fri., Jan. 25 at 6:30p. Bring your own beverage and a snack to share.
- ❖ **JAN. FAMILY MINISTRY TABLE:** *Discipling the Generations* Two options: 1) Check out the Gospel Project Sunday School classes (for each age), 2) Book: *The Storm-Tossed Family: How the Cross Reshapes the Home* Sign up at the Family Resource Table outside the office and we'll order more!!
- ❖ **JAN. FOCUS ON LIFE: Abortion** Learn about this important area with information, prayer, and tangible steps! Check out the Clarion or the blog.
- ❖ **PAST DUE! SAFETY/ WELLNESS RENEWAL** An email has been sent with the policy and any forms you need. *It is important to know and practice FirstCov's Safety & Wellness*. Please review it, sign and return to the box in the office.
- ❖ **WANT TO JOIN A GROUP?** A key place we grow is with others. God works in our groups through: 1) relationships & community, 2) Study and Growing toward maturity, 3) Prayer & Care, 4) Missional Service. It's a GREAT time!! There's one on Sunday nights: 6:00-6:30 social; study 6:30-8:00p. See Dan and Terri Pearson (teracita.pearson@gmail.com) or the office to get connected.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING + SOUP'S ON! LUNCH

- ❖ **NEXT SUN., JAN. 27th-CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** (2019 budget focus) & **SOUP'S ON! LUNCH**, a fundraiser for CHIC2021 students (current 7th-10th grades). Lunch is after our second service with the meeting after that. Minutes from the May Congregational Meeting can be found @theHub.

XO MARRIAGE CONFERENCE (SIMULCAST)

- ❖ **ESCAPE THE ORDINARY!** Fri., Feb. 22 (7-9p) & Sat., Feb. 23 (9a-4:30p). Hear from marriage expert Jimmy Evans, Dave & Ashley Willis, and many others about tips on a healthy thriving marriage. Register at rfcov.org, e-news, office, or the table. Cost \$15.00 person (\$30.00 couple) Includes lunch.

AWANA NOTES!

- ❖ **Sat. Jan. 26:** Grand Prix workshop from 9:00a-12:00p in room 303.
- ❖ **Sat., Feb. 9:** Turn in completed Grand Prix cars from 10:00-12:00p
- ❖ **Sat., Feb. 16:** Awana Grand Prix race day! 9:30a-12:00p. Everyone invited!

SUNDAY SCHOOLS

9:30-10:30a **The Gospel Project**

ALL the Bible for ALL the ages!

Study the same Bible passages across ages!!

Where: Sunday School (Classes for Kids, Middle School, High School (occasionally), & Adults)

How May You Gain?

- Study the whole Bible with others.
- Be equipped to engage your family or other generations in studying the same passages.
- Have Jesus glorified to you in new ways.
- Use the resources for personal or family study and growth.

PRAYER REQUESTS THIS WEEK

Jan. 20, 2019

- ❖ For a recommitment to the God of life and to the protection of human life.
- ❖ For the ministry of Options for Women here in River Falls
- ❖ That we may be renewed by Christ for 2019, with God's grace
- ❖ For our Missionary of the Week: James Tang
- ❖ For our College Student of the week: Brayden Richison
- ❖ For Healing and Help: Jean Elefson, Angie Martini, Juanita Amundson, David Petersen, Barry Hophan, Nora Munson, Joan Bystrom, Deb Kathan
- ❖ As we move forward from our Vitality, continue to pray for our next phase called Strategic Ministry Planning and for these team members: Pastor Todd, Pastor Brian, Melissa Falde, Jason Hull, Evan Carstedt, Kathi Nelson, Krista Majerus, and Pat Stevens
- ❖ For our FirstCov Ministry Team Leaders (see below)
- ❖ For our church staff: Pastor Todd, Pastor Brian, Neil Vance, Jackie Wallace

We are glad to pray for you in joy or in times of need. Needs will be listed for up to four weeks, but please let us know if you would like it longer.

THOSE IN THE MILITARY

For: Sam & Isaac Witt, Brent Wiersma, Roland Pomfret, Mike Findlay, Aaron Riess, Ryan Neel, John Meier, Murray Stoffa, Colin Arneson, Mckenzie Curtis, Max Elliott

OUR FIRSTCOV MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS

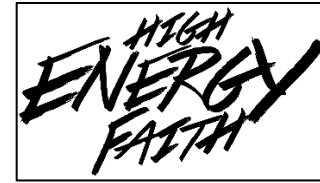
ADULT: Art Wellnitz; **BLAST (Childrens):** Bob & Debbie Gilbertson; **YOUTH:** Laura Schatz; **MEN:** Vern Larson, Rich Kathan; **WOMEN:** Wendi Blaubach, Wendy Larson; **WORSHIP & ARTS:** Dave Schatz; **MAINTENANCE:** Rob Stevens; **MISSIONS:** Jim Harsdorf; **OUTREACH:** Dean Benoy; **CHRISTIAN SOCIAL CONCERNS:** Chuck Sams; **FINANCE:** Johnny Manche

COLLEGE STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Brayden Richison, son of Beth Neumann. Brayden is a freshman at Arizona State University. His major is Global Business Politics. Keep him in prayer this year.
His email is: braydenrichison@gmail.com

OUR MISSIONARY OF THE WEEK

James Tang, who is a Covenant missionary to South Sudan. His ministry includes Sudanese Ministries, Christian Formation and Discipleship, Leadership Development, and Community Development. He is married to Nyabuak (Rachol). Their home church is Fridley Covenant in Fridley, MN. After years of civil war and strife the South Sudanese voted for independence from the North to become the youngest independent country in 2011. The Evangelical Covenant Church of South Sudan was born in 1998. Today there are 24,896 members in 363 churches. The ECCSS is reaching out to the unreached, to orphans, widows, and displaced Sudanese through ministries of compassion and evangelism. You can e-mail James at james.tang@covchurch.org



The Freedom Of Grace | 1 Corinthians 10:23-11:1 | Pastor Todd

Today, we continue our series from the letter of 1 Corinthians entitled, "High Energy Faith," by looking at what God's grace means for our lives and how we are to live it out before others. We need to know that grace:

1. Does not mean _____.

2. Means _____.

3. Gives _____.

"For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love." Galatians 5:13 (NIV)

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday

We encourage you to bring God's value of life into the world.

Serve/Act

Baby Bottle Campaign!

Please support the Baby Bottle Fundraiser for **Options for Women-River Falls**. *Their mission is to help women and families facing an unplanned pregnancy and promote a culture of life.* They offer the following free and confidential services:

Pregnancy Testing, STD Testing, Ultrasounds, Counseling, Information on options (they do not provide or refer for abortions), adoption referrals, assistance with material needs.

Pick up a bottle at The Hub! Fill it with change, and return by Feb. 3, or contribute by visiting their website at <http://www.ofwrf.com/> or mail to their address: 214 North Main Street, River Falls, WI 54022

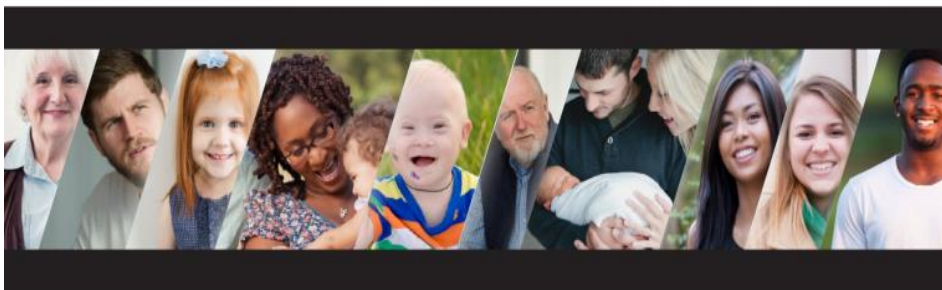
Learn/Be Informed

Read our Focus on Life blog post with January's theme on abortion:
www.rfcov.org/blog

Pray This Week!

See other side for themes and Scripture for each day.

Pray for a variety of sacredness of life issues this week by using the daily prayers and scriptures on the back of this insert.



Let this be recorded for a generation to come, that a people yet to be created may praise the Lord." Psalm 102:18

Prayers for the Sanctity of Human Life

SUNDAY: Pray for pastors to fulfill their God-given roles and to preach the truth about the value of human life. Pray that they listen to God first and His Word.

Proverbs 31:8, 9 "Open your mouth for the dumb, for the rights of all unfortunate. Open your mouth, judge righteously, and defend the right of the afflicted and needy."

MONDAY: Pray for those who value life to intercede in God-honoring ways. Pray for God-led moments of connection between those who value life and those who do not, whether in abortion, abuse of any kind, slavery, etc.

Matthew 5:16 "...let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."

TUESDAY: Pray for those who are *victims* of de-valuing of life or experience life de-valuing circumstances such as the homeless, those who suffer from mental illness, abuse victims, sexual harassment, etc.

Isaiah 58:6-7 "Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter— when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?"

WEDNESDAY: Pray for forgiveness, redemption and healing. Pray for those *who have turned from* life de-valuing practices (racism, abuse, etc.). Pray that they receive the healing needed in their lives, that their testimonies will help change the political, social and spiritual mindset.

Psalms 107:14, 20 "He sent His word and healed them." "He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, and broke their bands apart."
Psalms 147:3 "He heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds."

THURSDAY: Pray for abortion to end. Pray for the truth about abortion to be brought to light through media, the entertainment industry, churches, as well as judicial and political systems.

Mark 4:22 "For nothing is hidden, except to be revealed; nor has anything been secret, but that it should come to light."

FRIDAY: Pray for all the pregnancy resource centers in America to continue to be built up and equipped for every good work and receive support and attention in their communities.

Ephesians 2:10 "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."
Lamentations 2:19 "Arise, Cry aloud in the night at the beginning of the night watches, pour out your heart like water before the presence of the Lord, Lift up your hands to Him for the life of your little ones."

SATURDAY: Pray for revival of hearts and minds of young and old. To work redemptively in the world choosing "life" practices over "death" practices. Pray for people to get involved in positive ways in their communities, and at the national level.

Deuteronomy 30:19-20 "This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to Him."

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